

WIRTSCHAFTS FORUM NAH- UND MITTELOST[®]

No. 6 - November / December 2017
C 46321

Contents

Kuwait plays an important role in regional stability	1
Editorial	3
Personalities	3
German government concludes USD 22m strategic alliance in Egypt in partnership with Siemens	4
Emir of Qatar visits Berlin	6
"We're very proud of our partnership with Germany" – Interview with H.E. Khaled Nasser Abdullah Al-Roudan, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs of Kuwait	9
Saudi infrastructure transforming according to Vision 2030	10
Saudi Build 2017	11
UAE awards USD 3.87bn solar park contract, further boosting its ambitious renewable energy programme	12
MENA Competitiveness Index improving	13
Financial and legal frameworks in the MENA region	14
Iran in search of foreign investments in its oil sector	16
Siemens boosts activities in the whole MENA region	20
German and Omani foreign ministers meet in Berlin	21
H.E. Rouhani formulates priorities for second term	22
Mercedes-Benz Trucks and Iran Khodro sign deal	23
News & Projects	24
Fair News / Exchange Rates	27
100 most successful MENA companies 2017	28
Business Enquiries	30
Business Page	30
NUMOV Services	32
Application form for membership	32
Board of NUMOV	34
Imprint	34

Kuwait plays an important role in regional stability

by Helene Rang



Praised by several GCC countries and international officials, Kuwait has recently played a crucial role in mediating the economic and diplomatic tensions between the Gulf countries. At the same time, Kuwait's economy is currently experiencing a major boost due to increasing investment and the realisation of several long-term economic goals.

According to the market research report recently released by the Kuwait Financial Centre 'Markaz', the Kuwaiti market indices were the region's top performers in August 2017, gaining 2.3%. The report examines and analyses the performance of equity markets in the MENA region and globally. The Kuwaiti market benefitted significantly from the discussion around its potential inclusion in

FTSE Russell emerging market index, and its bourses witnessed a 7% increase in value traded. This increase in Kuwaiti liquidity as well as its positive performance in both the commodities and real estate sector is mainly attributed to a recent surge in investment into the country's market. At present, there are more than 700 active construction projects worth an estimated USD 234.4bn up and running in the country.

Significant factors for stabilising Kuwait's economy in the long term and keeping it among the most competitive GCC states are the country's USD 112bn five-year National Development Plan until 2020, which is part of the New Kuwait Vision for the years up to 2035, setting the nation's long-term development priorities. Main areas of focus

continued on page 8

NUMOV

NAH- UND MITTELOST-VEREIN E.V.
GERMAN NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION

Kronenstraße 1, D-10117 Berlin
Phone: +49 (0)30 - 206410-0
Fax: +49 (0)30 - 206410-10
E-mail: numov@numov.de
Internet: www.numov.de